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PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006 8:30AM
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006 4:30PM
NATURE OF CALL: SEARCH AND RESCUE
LOCATION OF CALL: SUGAR BOWL SKI RESORT
RELEASED BY: SGT. BILL LANGTON

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

At approximately 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Placer County Sheriff's Department was notified about an overdue/missing snowboarder at the Sugar Bowl Ski Resort on Donner Summit.

Thomas Vida, 32, from Danville, California had last been seen around 2 p.m. and failed to meet up with friends at a predetermined spot. Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol members performed a hasty search and tracks were located that indicated Vida had ventured outside the ski resort boundaries.

Resources from the Placer County Sheriff Department's Lake Tahoe station, as well as members of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue team, responded and initiated a search in the Mt. Lincoln area. Shortly after 10 p.m., Vida was located in good health on the backside of the ski resort. Vida, along with SAR team members, were evacuated by snow cat.

Vida had apparently become disoriented due to poor visibility and became lost in the afternoon while attempting to meet up with friends.

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